Komi Can't Communicate

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Story and Art by Tomohito Oda

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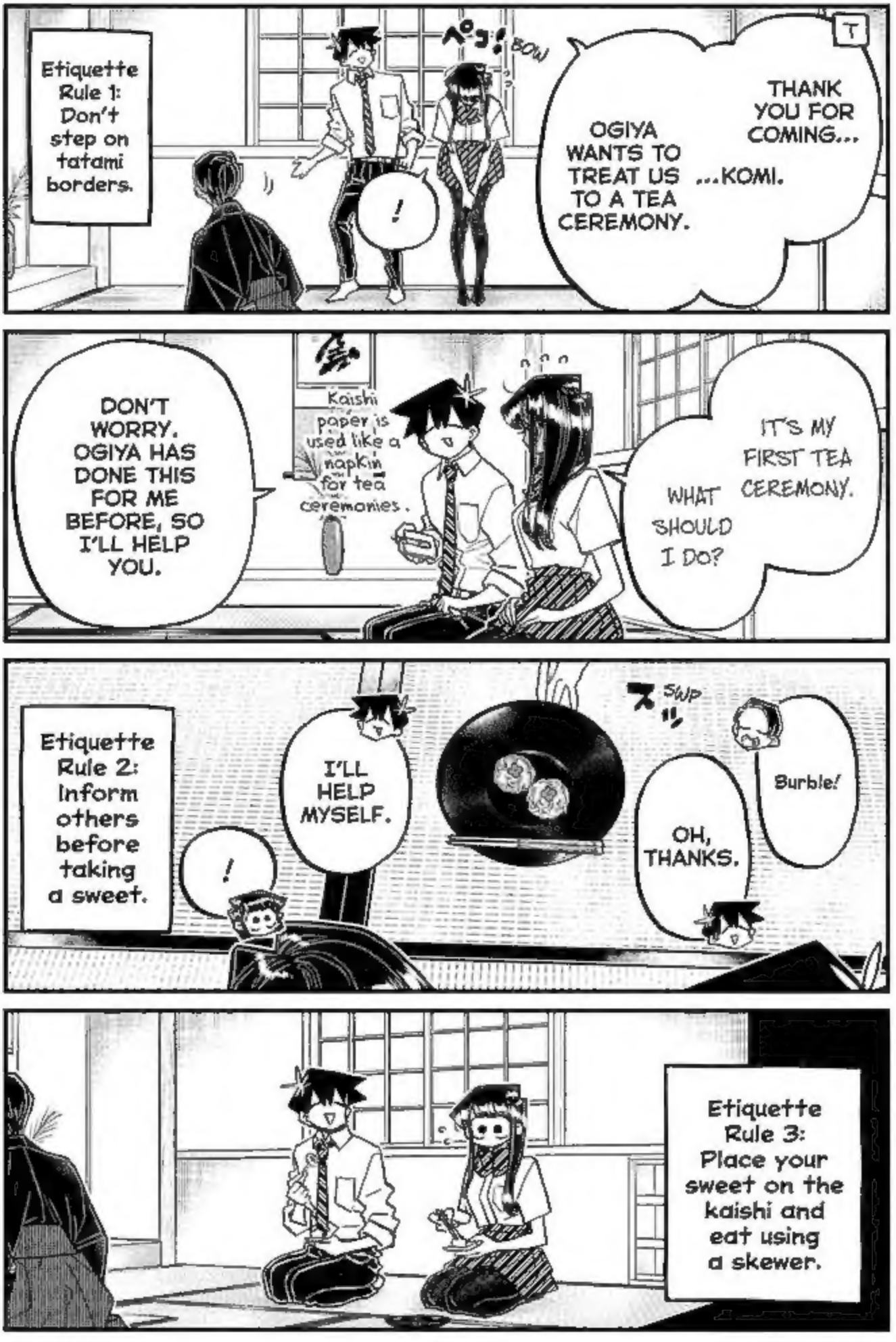
*CALLIGRAPHY: ONE LIFETIME, ONE MEETING.


Etiquette Rule 1: Don't step on tatami borders.
ペコ! BOW
!
T
THANK YOU FOR COMING...
...KOMI.
OGIYA WANTS TO TREAT US TO A TEA CEREMONY.
DON'T WORRY. OGIYA HAS DONE THIS FOR ME BEFORE, SO I'LL HELP YOU.
Kaishi paper is used like a napkin for tea ceremonies.
IT'S MY FIRST TEA CEREMONY.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Etiquette Rule 2: Inform others before taking a sweet.
!
I'LL HELP MYSELF.
SWP
Burble!
OH, THANKS.
Etiquette Rule 3: Place your sweet on the kaishi and eat using a skewer.

They finished eating.
THAT WAS DELICIOUS.
!
KLATR
TNK
SWIK
...
Scared because she doesn't know what they're thinking
...
Happy someone noticed
ぽっ
PWAH
IS THAT A DIFFERENT USUCHAKI? IT'S PRETTY!
*An usuchaki is a matcha vessel.

Tadano finished drinking.
Mixed it differently
PWAH
AGAIN
また!
DID YOU USE DIFFERENT MATCHA? IT TASTED MILDER THIS TIME.
I LIKE THE FLAVOR!
SWP
スッ
!

Copy-ing Tadano
ペコ
BOW

Etiquette Rule 4: Turn cup to avoid drinking from the front
TURN カル
TURN カル

SIP
ズ〜〜

Etiquette Rule 5: Take three sips and make a slurping sound.
GULP
Z"
SIP
RUB
キュ
WIPE WIPE
フキフキ
Etiquette Rule 6: Wipe first with fingers, then with kaishi
Etiquette Rule 7: Return the bowl to the server facing forward

RATL
カチャ
KNLK
コト
Goo-
goo!
Ogiya.
キュ
ﾘﾘ
FUJK
Chan.

Mm-
hmm!
?!
YES,
INDEED.
うんうん
NOD
NOD
?!?
!?!

LET'S SEE...
OH, RIGHT! I UNDERSTAND HIM, BUT YOU NEED A TRANSLATION!
...!
...!!
...
Um...
Ogiya
FIRST, HE SAID, "WELCOME."

...!
HMPH
Ga-ga!
SKRK カリ
SKRK カリ
SKRK カリ

TAP
I've been rude.
I was going to let
Tadano interpret for me,
but I should explain in
my own words, even if
I have to write them.
I'm sorry.
フリフリ!!
SWUF SWUF
!
深々
DEEP BOW
!
?
"I wanted you to come today so I could apologize."
"I was cold to you on the first day of year three."

*See volume 25.
?!
TADANO
SHOKO
All he said was "goo-goo"!
Goo-goo.
"When you were seeking friends, I responded by saying, 'very well'..."
"...but then I shook hands with Tadano and became friends with him instead."
"That was mean of me."
"You were not to blame for my attitude."
"That's because I'm so good-looking."
?!
"In junior high, I was popular, if I do say so myself."
?!
"But..."
"...my popularity never once made me happy."

"People took my picture without asking and spread rumors about who I was dating."
"Boys accused me of stealing their girlfriends and despised me."
"Confrontations with stalkers were frequent."
...!
GOOOOOGAAAAA
Thought about it but doesn't get it
?!
?!
"So in high school I started sucking on a pacifier and became a baby."
Is that per-fect ???
"It was the perfect plan. But I didn't have any friends until this year."

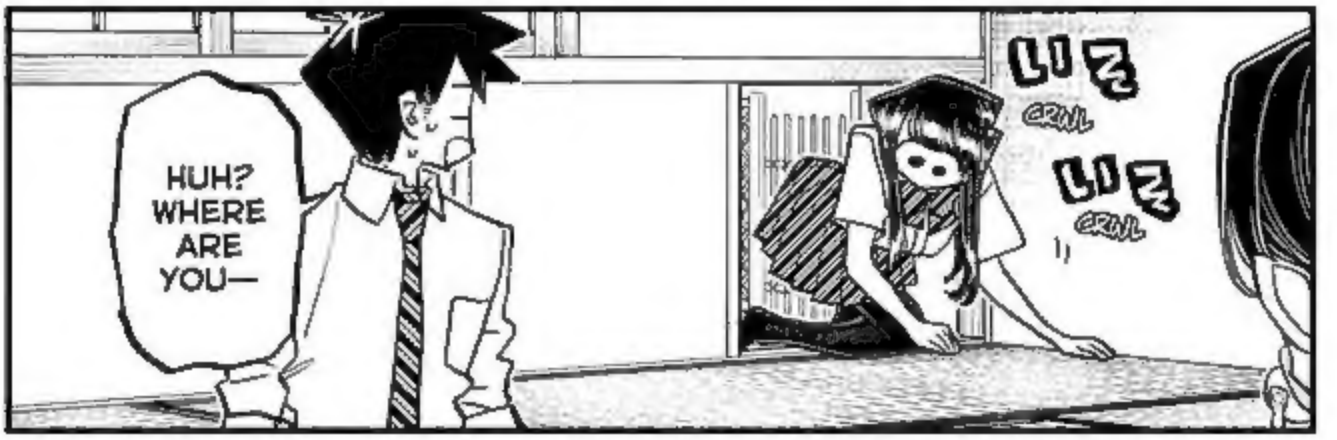
"I was cold to you because of my past..."
"...and I apologize."
BON
Doesn't know what to say
...
!
"You've struggled too."
"People have admired your beauty, attempted to woo you, and judged you with bias..."
"...instead of valuing you for who you really are."
...

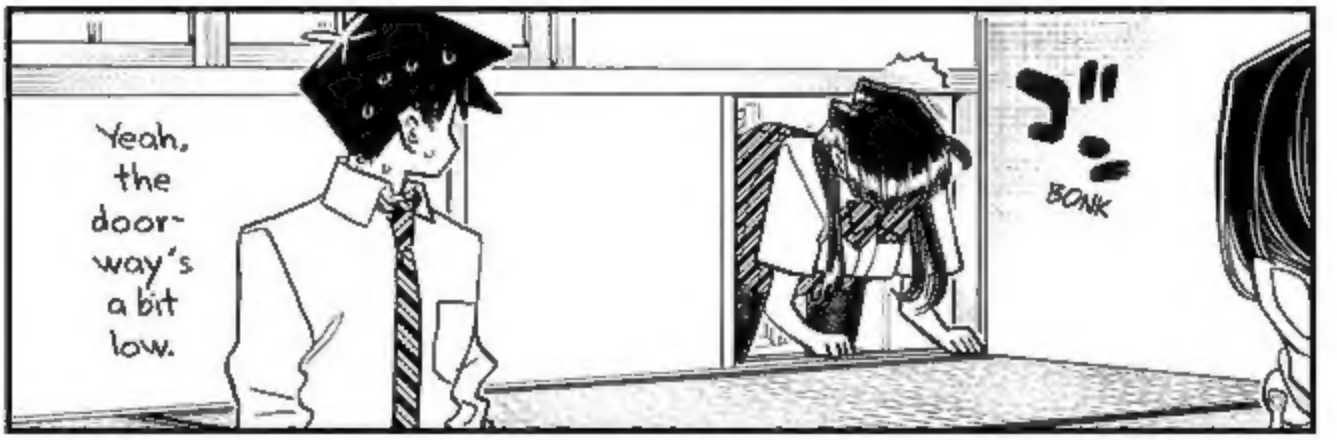
THERE'S SOMEONE!!
?!
...
THAT MUST BE IT!!
...TO RIP YOUR ARMS FROM THEIR SOCKETS!!

"But you didn't give up on communicating."
!

"Tadano told me you want 100 friends..."
"...yet I merely watched you for half a year."
...!
AA.

"I had given up on interacting with others."
"I was scared..."
"...because of my own bad experiences."
"But even though you had trouble and were scared..."
"...you kept seeking mutual understanding."
"That makes you an amazing young woman."





To be continued!